

Subject: French coin collection
valued at \$300,000.

Guerlay, Jean
[Paris, France]

1932

Jean GUERLAY
212 Boulevard de la Villette
P A R I S

February 15, 1932

Mr. HOWLAND WOOD
Curator of the American Numismatic Society
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets
NEW YORK

Dear Sir,

In replying to your letter of January 18th, I take extreme pleasure in thanking you for all the trouble which I may have caused you.

I may tell you nevertheless that I am somewhat disappointed in learning that my proposition could in no way interest your Society or any of your friends.

This collection is at the present moment undoubtedly the most wonderful private collection of French coins in existence. You are however quite mistaken in thinking it is the CHANGARNIER collection, it contains only a few Changarnier specimens such as the "HELMETTED VERCINGETORIX". Moreover the CHANGARNIER collection was only composed of coins of the Gallic period, whereas mine covers the whole numismatic history of France, from the most ancient period to the present day. It is composed of the most beautiful coins that have been sold from different private collections during the last generation, and constitutes the most beautiful and complete collection of French coins, covering every period.

I could not possibly consider the sale of insividual pieces because it would destroy the uniformity and collective intrinsic value of the collection.

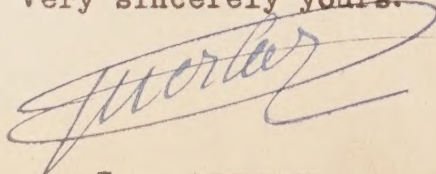
The price which I am asking for the whole collection is \$ 300.00 - You probably thought I would be asking much more, but you can readily realise that this price is very reasonable and not at all prohibitive as a purchase price for an American Institution.

If you have no further use for the photographs I would be much obliged if you would return them to me.

Thanking you in anticipation

I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours.



Jean GUERLAY.

February 24, 1932.

Mr. Jean Guerlay
212 Boulevard de la Villette
Paris, France.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of February 15th just at hand. We are really puzzled at the price that you name and I am writing you to see if this is correct. You state in your letter the asking price for the whole collection is \$300.00 (three hundred dollars). I remain,

Very truly yours,

HM: JG

Curator

**FAST SERVICE TO ALL POINTS IN EUROPE,
AFRICA, ASIA AND OCEANIA**

. 1245P

The above MESSAGE is received via FRENCH TELEGRAPH CABLE subject to the usual terms and conditions.

J. GUERLAY
212, Bd. de la Villette
PARIS.

March 7 , 1932

Mr. HOWLAND WOOD
Curator of
The American Numismatic Society
NEW YORK

Dear Sir,

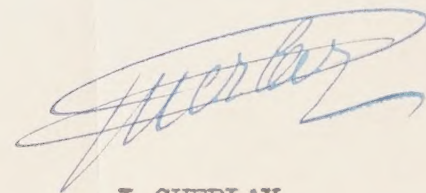
I beg to accuse reception of your letter of the February 24th last. I thank you very much for having informed me of the mistake which was observed in my letter of the February 15th.

I beg to confirm my cable of the 4th instant informing you that the price of the whole collection is three hundred thousand Dollars (\$ 300.000.00).

Thanking you very much for the trouble which I have caused you,

I beg to remain

Yours very truly



J. GUERLAY

March 11, 1932.

Mr. Jean Guerlay
212 Boulevard de la Villette
Paris, France.

Dear Sir:

Your cable just received. All I can say is that we are not in a position to buy the collection nor do I know of any institution, museum or collector in this country that would be interested. As a matter of fact, nearly all of the museums over here are buying very little now and some have even suspended operations for the time being. Most of the wealthy collectors are trying to sell their coins. I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Jean GUERLAY
212 Boulevard de la Villette
PARIS.

March 24, 1932

Mr. HOWLAND WOOD
Curator of
the AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Broadway between 155th and 156th streets
NEW YORK.

Dear Sir :

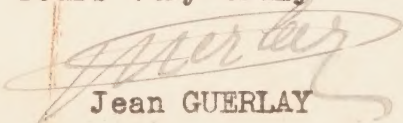
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant advising me that your Society is not in a position to buy my collection of coins.

If this collection really interests you, I am quite disposed to accept a reasonable offer of an initial cash payment, the balance being distributed over a certain period.

Will you kindly reexamined my proposition under these conditions.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly


Jean GUERLAY

May 9, 1932.

M. Jean Guerlay
212 Boulevard de la Villette
Paris, France.

Dear Sir:

This is simply to acknowledge your letter of March 24th. This Society in no way can consider the purchase of your collection and a canvass of various collectors in this country reveals that no one that we know would be interested in it. I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator